



TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN HALL
78 HOPEDALE STREET
HOPEDALE, MA 01747

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Zoning Complaints

The Hopedale Zoning By-Laws have been enacted and amended by votes of the residents of Hopedale. These By-Laws are not simply guidelines or aspirations to be honored by those who choose to do so. Instead, these By-Laws have the full force of law, apply to all property owners, and are subject to enforcement in our courts.

No homeowner, contractor, or developer is allowed to commence any construction without first consulting with the Building Commissioner. "No use shall be established and no structure or accessory structure shall be erected, externally altered or changed in use in the Town of Hopedale without a zoning permit from the Building Commissioner." Hopedale Zoning By-Laws § 10.6(d). The Building Commissioner is prohibited from issuing any permits that would result in a violation of the Hopedale Zoning By-Laws. G.L. c. 40A, § 7.

Through design, oversight, neglect, or other errors, property owners may be in violation of the Hopedale Zoning By-Laws. Left unchecked for a prolonged period of time, these violations may have legal implications that prevent remedial action and ultimately undermine the By-Laws.

If you suspect that a property owner is in violation of the Hopedale Zoning By-Laws, you may seek enforcement.

The starting point is with the Building Commissioner. You should send to the Building Commissioner a written request to enforce the Zoning By-Laws against the person (or business) alleged to be in violation. G.L. c. 40A, § 7. Within 14 days, the Building Commissioner will either take enforcement action or will notify you of any "refusal to act, and the reasons therefor." G.L. c. 40A, § 7. If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Building Commissioner, then you may appeal that decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. G.L. c. 40A, § 8.

As a property owner, you may also have additional legal rights where consultation with an attorney should be considered.